



SUMMER 1981

OUR FOURFOOTED FRIENDS



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ON THE COVER: A visitor to the League's rabies clinic goes home with a complete supply of pet care pamphlets, provided as a public service by the League. [See other photos, page 11.]



ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON

Publisher of OUR FOURFOOTED FRIENDS

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SUMMER 1981

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from the president's desk



The Future of Animal Welfare

The future of animal welfare and the humane movement may not be completely predictable, but one thing that is certain for the decades to come is that it is subject to change and, very likely, a great deal of change.

Our uncertain economy and shrinking government funds resulting in reduced government services and activities no doubt play an important role in the immediate future.

First of all, prudent financial management will be vital to the continued success and existence of humane societies. Without such care, many humane societies may face greatly reduced activities and in the extreme circumstances, some may actually cease to exist. This may be especially true for groups who rely heavily on government funds for their income through animal control contracts and similar ventures. Independent income and support from private sources will be more important than ever to the financial health of our work. As a result, more and more attention will have to be directed to fund raising and this will be complicated by ever increasing competition with other non-profits for the charitable dollar in a society that is troubled with growing inflation and a tightening money market. At the same time, this will be occurring in a world that will be looking more intently to the private sector to meet the challenges these very factors tend to create. To many, it may seem like a Catch 22 dilemma, and well it may be, if we do not plan wisely for the future.

This will be true on the local, regional, national and international levels and the solutions will not necessarily be the same, but one common thread for all of us will be the fact that solutions will not be easy to achieve. However, they need not be impossible.

We will need to continue to work on many of the existing problems such as over-population of pet animals, humane legislation and the multitude of humane activities associated with shelter services and cruelty investigations and inspections. Some of the new challenges that will tax our efforts will be proper and humane solutions to the issues created by "intensified" or "factory" farming techniques which no doubt will be a major concern for the 1980's.

Our successful and cooperative interaction with all levels of government to see that the many laws we have to protect animals continue to remain and function effectively will be an especially important role. It is all too easy for these controls to be lost in the scramble that takes place in a cut back of governmental involvement. This need not be a totally negative situation, because there is no doubt that a greater efficiency can and should be the result in many cases. This is perhaps one of our great responsibilities, to see that such is the case in every instance possible. If we show a willingness to cooperate and to give freely of our advice and consulting expertise, we may be able to make a substantial contribution to a better world for animals yet unborn. By innovation of activities and ideas in animal protection, we may be able to make some of the greatest strides. It will take the organization and cooperation of everyone from farmers to electronic experts to make it work, but with humane groups at the focal point to be the guardians of the welfare of animals, it could easily be the most exciting and rewarding experience we have ever known in our profession. It is often adversity and great challenge that produce the finest results. We should look forward to the future with hope and courage.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Arthur G. Slade".

Arthur G. Slade
President

League Pups Help Break the Sound Barrier

Red Acre Farm Hearing Dog Center



"Man's best friend" is taking on a whole new meaning for the deaf, thanks to the innovative Hearing Dog Program, which now is available to residents of New England and New York State. Red Acre Farm in Stow, Massachusetts, has announced the opening this summer of a new Hearing Dog Center, a non-profit program that will provide hearing impaired people with the ability to respond to vital sounds of living, helped by previously homeless animals.

The dogs to be trained for this program will be provided by the League, which has also agreed to supply Red Acre Farm with veterinary care at no cost. Former League president Carlton E. Buttrick was recently elected president of Red Acre, and the League looks forward to a continued close association with the Hearing Dog Center. The first canine candidates for the program will be selected in June from the homeless animals at the League's shelters. They will then be taken to Stow to begin their course of training.

"The problems of deafness are deeper and more complex if not more important than those of blindness," Miss Helen Keller once said. "Deafness is a much worse misfortune, for it means the loss of the most vital stimulus - the sound of the voice that brings language, sets thoughts astir, and keeps us in the intellectual company of man."

Imagine being severely to profoundly deaf as are nearly two million people in the United States today. For these individuals, sounds are shut off. Thus, when a bell rings, a siren wails or a baby cries, hearing impaired people are often unable to respond. Developed under the auspices of the American Humane Association, the Hearing Dog Center offers a solution to this problem.

Anyone 21 or over with a severe to profound hearing loss, living alone or with other hearing impaired people, may apply to own a Hearing Dog. Prospective owners must agree to sustain a training program. Pre-placement visits are made to determine the probability for successful placement, care and use of the Hearing Dog. Counselors use sign language and can communicate directly with those who apply.

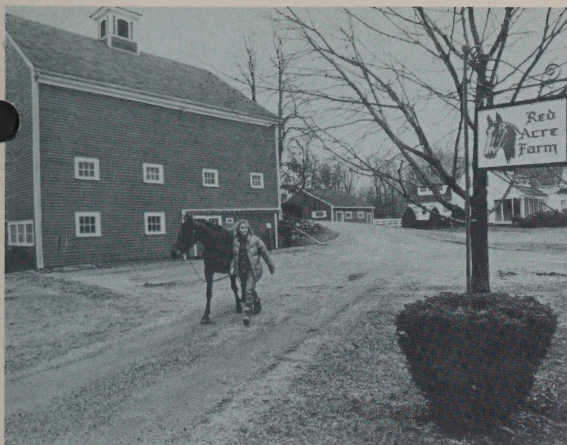
Hearing dogs are placed free of charge, although donations are welcome from those able to afford it. Even though it costs over \$5,000 to train, place and follow up each dog, no one is denied a dog if he or she is financially unable to contribute to its cost. The program is sustained entirely by donations from caring friends - no tax dollars support this humane service.

Most dogs selected for training are mixed breeds and small to medium sized. Dogs will be about one year old, indicate intelligence, good health and have the proper temperament for training. They will be trained for three to four months in basic obedience and "sound keying" - zeroing in on specific noises according to the recipient's mode of living. Sounds often selected include an alarm clock, smoke detector, door bell or buzzer, a baby's cry or a telephone. Training takes place in the Hearing Dog Center which is equipped with kennels and a model apartment where a home-like setting has been created for training purposes.

A placement counselor takes the dog to its new home for a final week of training. In this way a smooth transition is assured. Progress reports are required and follow-up visits occur, making sure the arrangement works well. After three months of satisfactory performance in the home, a Hearing Dog is certified. The owner is presented with a wallet-sized identification card and a blaze orange collar and leash for the dog. These two pieces of identification awarded by Red Acre Farm entitle the dog and owner to the same legal rights enjoyed by guide dogs for the blind.

Red Acre Farm, founded by Miss Harriet G. Bird in 1903 as a home for old and worn-out horses, is well known today for initiating and encouraging projects that will prevent and alleviate suffering in humans and animals. The Hearing Dog Center at Red Acre Farm is the third regional Hearing Dog Center in the nation, developed by the American Humane Association.

Anyone who would like further information on the program, or who would like to help, should contact Carolyn G. Bird, executive director, Red Acre Farm Hearing Dog Center, 109 Red Acre Road, Stow, Mass. 01775 - Box #278. Telephone (617) 897-8343 (voice/TTY) or (617) 897-5370 (voice only).



Philip Watson, a member of Red Acre's advisory committee and director of Massachusetts Mental Health Services for Deaf Persons, demonstrates sign language which counselors will be able to use on follow-up visits to owners of Hearing Dogs.



Rainbow, the program's specially trained demonstration dog, illustrates wake-up techniques with placement counselor Ellen Terryberry.



Red Acre's staff members confer (left to right): Ellen Terryberry, placement counselor; Carolyn G. Bird, executive director of the Hearing Dog Center; and Walter M. Bird, Jr., director and treasurer of Red Acre Farm and a member of the League's Board of Directors.

Italian Earthquake _____ The Tragic Toll

by James Pfeiffer

The recent earthquake in Southern Italy in November, 1980, not only brought death and destruction to the people of the Appennine Neopolitan region, but it also took a heavy toll on livestock and domestic pets. In light of so much human suffering, the effect on animals was not reported by the news media which failed to appreciate the importance of animals to the people of this agricultural region.

Within hours after the earthquake struck, the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) London-based staff were assembling rescue equipment and veterinary supplies and planning their departure to the disaster area.

In Italy, the rescue team found complete chaos and no coordinated effort to bring aid to the animals affected by the quake. Injured pets and livestock were in need of medical attention, and many farm animals were still trapped in the remains of their barns and sheds. The towns hit hardest were in complete ruins and roads were inaccessible causing the WSPA team to often travel on foot to render aid.

Augmented by field staff from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Ente Nazionale Protection Animali, the Anglo-Italian Protection Association and several volunteer veterinarians and veterinary students, several teams were organized and sent to different towns. There they searched the rubble of homes and farms, rounding up animals whose owners had been killed or evacuated. They also administered aid to surviving animals and put to sleep those crushed in the debris. While in the City of Laviano, two of the WSPA staff were caught in an earth tremor measuring 4.6 on the Richter Scale which caused further damage there.

Close to 4,500 animals, both domestic and livestock, died as a result of the earthquake, but many more survived as a result of the WSPA rescue effort.

WSPA, the recent product of a merger between the International Society for the Protection of Animals (ISPA) and the World Federation for the Protection of Animals (WFPA), has an office in Boston as well as in London and Zurich, and is the only international organization maintaining an animal disaster program for use anywhere in the world. Through this program, aid has been brought to thousands of animals (domestic and wild) affected by earthquakes, floods, drought, hurricanes, oil spills, fire, famine, warfare and other man-made disasters in countries throughout the world.

As an active supporter of ISPA since its inception in 1959, the Animal Rescue League offers its congratulations and continuing support to the new society for its dedicated work on behalf of animals throughout the world.

Mr. Pfeiffer is assistant to the regional director of WSPA in Boston.

The following are selected excerpts from WSPA regional director Colin Platt's field report on the Italian earthquake disaster:

Sunday, November 30, 1980

Castelnuova, Italy: "This was our first sight of the devastation and the hillside on which the town once stood, now more resembling a stone quarry."

Laviano (later the same day): "We were called to destroy an aged blind dog still guarding the ruins of a shop that had been its home and, possibly, its owners still below the rubble...On searching buildings and outhouses on the edge of the town we found numerous poultry and even a pig that had not been fed or watered for seven days. These we fed and watered and in the case of poultry confined in cages, they were released...It was a moving experience when persons, clearly victims themselves, were concerned that the mules were to be shot, and pleased when we assured them the mules were going to be rehabilitated."

Monday, December 1:

"By helicopter, we could now inspect the higher hill farms and pastures to assess damage and the numbers of animals requiring food...Reappraisal of our work to date indicated that the main problem now lay with farm livestock and not with domestic pets."

Tuesday, December 2:

Laviano: "Word had been passed around that veterinary services were available and many requests were received for assistance. At their owners' request, animals were painlessly destroyed and buried for reasons of sanitation. Others were examined and advice given to owners about improvised shelter and feeding."

Wednesday, December 3:

"The higher hill farms were now checked and food provided for abandoned stock. Many farmers who had originally fled the area, were now returning and requested advice on the care of their debilitated stock."



Rescue teams searched through devastated villages rounding up strays, searching destroyed areas, and providing treatment.



Many animals sustained injuries from falling buildings [and from boulders rolling through hillside pastures.]



Many hungry pets remained near the rubble of deserted homes.



Seriously injured animals crushed in the rubble were humanely put to sleep.

The Nature of Cats

by Arthur G. Slade

Given the proper care, cats are extremely clean animals and seem to have a certain pride in keeping themselves clean. Regular veterinary care and inoculations should be a part of the good care of any cat, and when this is done, they tend to be very healthy, clean animals and do not "spread or carry disease" as is sometimes thought to be the case by non-cat owners. In fact, cats with good care often out-live the family dog.

I mention the family dog because many people feel that you can not have a dog and cat in the same household for fear that they will "fight like cats and dogs". It is true that they have to become acquainted with each other particularly if one is very young and the other is mature. Limited access by means of a pet gate or screen door is often a desirable and effective means of getting to know each other, and prevents immediate invasion of the other's territory. Once a brief period of this nature has passed, it is normally very easy to have cats and dogs co-exist in the same home. I have two dogs and a cat that have lived together for years and the cat is the one "in charge". This is often the case once they have lived together for any length of time. This is not an overbearing situation, but just a healthy respect. Cats will also distinguish between the dog or dogs they know and trust and the strange dog that may be cause for some caution or alarm. Again, a true sign of intelligence and a natural instinct to survive.

Cats do have instincts and some are quite strong and require careful care to control. Thus it may be difficult to have some pets, such as birds and hamsters together with a cat.

The old saying that "Neuter is neater" applies just as much to cats as it does to dogs. The spayed female and the castrated male cat make a much better and cleaner house pet and neutering is strongly recommended for the new feline member of the family. It also helps greatly in reducing the thousands of unwanted kittens that are born each year in our country.

If you have never considered or wanted a cat for a pet, perhaps you will give it a second thought and adopt one. I think you will be pleasantly surprised and pleased with the rewards.

In our work, we frequently talk with people who are either very fond of cats or have no interest or a strong dislike for them.

For those who express the latter views, I strongly suspect that many of them have never owned a cat and learned to love it as a true family pet. There is no question that cats are different from dogs and this is often the comparison that is made by people who dislike cats. Cats are perceived by these folks as cold and unfriendly, untrainable, independent, unpredictable and, in some cases, wild, dangerous and dirty creatures.

The facts are that none of these opinions are totally true and many have no foundation at all.



Many cats are more self-reliant and thus give an impression of independence, but this is not to say that they do not need and want love and attention. In fact, they respond quite positively to humane treatment and human emotions. The very fact that they do sense circumstances in their environment to a very high degree tends to cause some of the mistaken notions about them. Their acute sense of awareness causes them to react more quickly to the world about them. Thus reactions due to fear and fright are learned early in most kittens' lives and they may respond instinctively to the many hazards about them. Kittens who have not had any human contacts during their early months are understandably frightened and cautious when first approached by one of us. This is not so much because they have "gone wild", but because they have adapted quickly to their environment. Adapting is one thing that cats do quite well and, in fact, do it better than most other animals. It is their ability to adapt and thus survive that is sometimes mistaken for an independent and unpredictable attitude - a situation that is just the opposite to the way many people interpret it.



Senior Internship is a Wild Kingdom

by Marcia Lawry

"Going out into the big, real world." That's what Peggy Larned says her internship is like.

Peggy works at the Animal Rescue League in Boston at the corner of Arlington and Tremont Streets.

Feeding and caring for animals, assisting the veterinarians with their duties, and doing bookwork are some of the different jobs that keep Peggy busy as she works her way to valuable experience in the veterinary field.

Shock and fear are both an integral part of Peggy's program. She comments that the most important elements of working with animals are "learning how to act around them with confidence and recognizing their body language."

Peggy also says that she has often been scared by animals, but with the vets' encouragement and explanations, she has learned how to act with confidence and skill.

Although her job becomes trying at times, Peggy insists that "It's still fun because the people are so wonderful and the atmosphere is so friendly."

Peggy feels that her employers look out for her and concern themselves with her progress, evident in the patience and help they give her.

Peggy's love for animals, strengthened by her internship experience, has confirmed her goal to attend college as a pre-vet major. Not entirely sure of her final objective, however, Peggy speculates



that she would like to research animal behavior, own her own animals, travel, and get good pay.

The internship has produced mixed feelings for Peggy too, concerning her distance from friends, but, she says, "I've come to appreciate my great opportunity and now feel that staying stagnant in school would have created a lot of boredom and discouragement for me."

Giving the animals shots, helping the veterinarians to fix injuries, filing examination records and making sure animals are clean and satisfied are certainly a change from having her nose in text books all the time. But for Peggy Larned, the experience she gets at the Boston Chapter of the Animal Rescue League is more valuable and stimulating than any book she could read.

Reprinted from the Hamilton-Wenham Chronicle.

Nature of Cats [cont'd]

This ability to adapt can be utilized to bring out the best qualities of a cat as a pet. Cats react very favorably to love, care and attention. If a mother cat has been raised in these surroundings, she will bring her kittens up to love and trust the family. Love, care and frequent attention by petting and handling cats will also prove that they are extremely intelligent pets who can be trained quite

easily. They can be taught to come when you call, especially if they know it will be a happy experience, and they are normally far more easily house trained than their canine counterparts. In fact, mother cats usually train their kittens to a litter box in the first few weeks if mother is accustomed to using litter. This is not the usual case with puppies where the chore can go on for months.

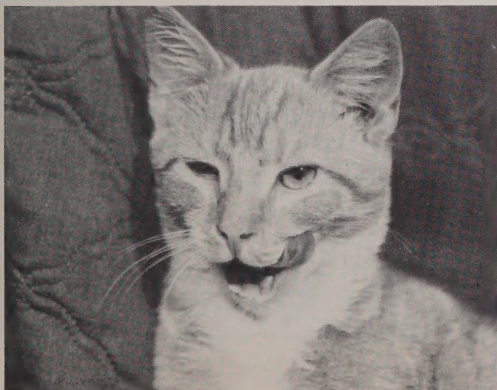


Photo by Donald Sansom



Photo by Gary Twiraga

NOT WANTED LOST PETS FOR RESEARCH



DID YOU KNOW IF YOUR PET WERE TO GET LOST IN MASSACHUSETTS HE COULD EASILY END UP AT A RESEARCH INSTITUTION WITHIN TWO WEEKS!

**HELP STOP THIS!
SUPPORT H-1245**

Since 1957 a State Law, CHAPTER 49A, authorizes the seizure of unclaimed pets from Massachusetts animal pounds by licensed research institutions. Humane societies have long taken the position that public and private animal shelters should not be forced to surrender animals entrusted to their care. The Animal Rescue League of Boston and the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals have not, and will not surrender any animals for this purpose.

H-1245 pending in the House Committee on Counties in the Massachusetts legislature would stop the use of pets in research. Please join us in supporting this important bill.

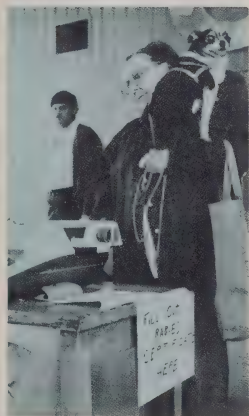
Write to your state representative and senator (for name call 1-800-392-6090), also please write to Charles Flaherty, Chairman of House Committee on Counties, and House Speaker Thomas McGee at Massachusetts State House, Boston, MA 02133.

No action has been taken as yet... please keep up your support!



ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON
10 Chandler St., Boston, Mass. 02116

1981 ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE RABIES CLINIC





E.

Here's "Fritzie," "Felix," "Blackie," and "Tabby" (left to right), all strays adopted by Rosamond Walbert of Cleveland, Ohio. "They are all loved pets now and get along just great. Hope you all like this picture as much as we do!" she writes. *Photo E.*

Pets in the Picture

Calvin E. Wainwright of Richmond, Texas, is the proud owner of "Ginger," a brown mixed Shepherd/hound who has "adjusted well to life in four different states" since her adoption from the League in January, 1970 at the age of three months. Also in the picture is "Skunky," a black and white female border collie adopted by Ginger in June, 1975. *Photo A.*

"Let me tell you about my operation..." is the caption given to this photo of "Sheba" by owner Ruth Pragnell of Everett, who adopted her laid back pet at the League in March and sent along this photo to show how well she is adjusting to her new home. *Photo B.*

Mildred Greig of Roslindale sent this photo of "Shane," a black Newfoundland owned by her neighbors, the Sarourin family, shown on one of his regular visits to her pet, "Chico Son Snow Prince." "Shane is gentle like a lamb" and good with children, reports Ms. Greig who made a red collar and red reflector for the black dog to guarantee visibility on night walks. *Photo C.*

"Nuggie" was adopted from the League seventeen years ago by Catherine Baker who writes: "It was certainly a good decision for seven dollars...Nuggie and I have been good friends for a long time...He has vacationed from Maine to Cape Cod and loves to go anywhere I go, even if it's only around the block in the car. He thinks he's been somewhere and he's happy." *Photo D.*



The League is deeply grateful to Dr. Richard Kearns of Hingham who recently donated a Birtcher EKG machine for use in our small animal clinic, and to Henry T. Wiggin of Brookline who has generously come forward to help for the second time. Mr. Wiggin, who together with his dog "Storm" provided the League with a rescue boat last year, has also donated a cold water survival suit for aquatic rescue work.

For others who would like to help, a second cold water survival suit is still needed since aquatic rescues are two-man operations. Approximate cost: \$350.00.

DOGS SOLD FOR MEAT IN PHILIPPINES



These dogs were among several photographed by John Walsh, regional director of the World Society for the Protection of Animals in an investigation of "dog markets" in the Philippines at which dogs are sold for meat. Note the paws bound behind the back and the jaws muzzled with tin cans.

SHOE FIRM FINED FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES VIOLATION

A shoe firm in Revere, Mass. recently paid the largest single penalty assessed in New England for the use of a protected species of snake in the manufacture of footwear according to a report in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service News. Joan and David Helpern, Inc., charged with twenty violations of the Endangered Species Act, paid a fine of \$15,000 to the federal government through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and also forfeited 1,325 pairs of shoes made of reticulated Python which had been seized at the Helpern

warehouse by Fish and Wildlife Service agents. The case came to their attention when U.S. Customs agents in Boston became suspicious of a containerized shipment of goods from Italy labeled "cobra", containing "leather footwear for ladies". Samples of the women's high-heeled shoes were examined by experts at a local university and the Bronx Zoo who determined that the leather was not cobra but reticulated Python, a protected species.

POLICE DOG MAKES A RECORD FETCH



Ordered to fetch a screwdriver in a demonstration of his talents for kindergarten students at the Hastings School in Westboro, Mass., "Thor", a canine member of the Westboro Police Department, with canine cunning and dogged determination, decided to disobey orders. Instead of fetching the screwdriver tossed by Patrolman Ron Allen, "Thor" dug down deep in the soil behind the school fence and unearthed an eight-track cassette tape recorder, later discovered to have been stolen. After attending to his official police work, the German Shepherd resumed the demonstration, fetching the screwdriver for the delighted class.

FOOD BILL NIBBLES AWAY AT ZOO POPULATION



Things are a lot quieter these days at Slater Park Zoo in Pawtucket, R.I. since rising food costs caused the zoo to sell or trade most of their meat-eating animals. Currently undergoing renovations, the zoo in the future will house primarily North American species such as deer, elk and pigs, cows and other farm animals that children can touch - all of which subsist on a diet of grain and vegetables. Rising prices of horsemeat, which now costs between 80 and 88 cents a pound, were a large factor in the decision, according to zoo officials interviewed by the Boston Globe. Among the animals that fell victim to inflation were two leopards, who ate about eight pounds of horsemeat daily; a female tiger named "Cat" who ate 12 pounds a day; and Freddy the Lion whose royal feast each day totaled at least 15 pounds.



NOON NEWS ADDS PET APPEAL

In a new weekly television news feature, Sarah Friedrichs, education and information coordinator at the League, is appearing each Tuesday with WNAC-TV's Bill Selby on the Channel 7 noon news. She gives pet care pointers and other information on League services, and introduces to the viewers young animals in need of homes. Adoptions have increased since the start of the program a few months ago.

BABY RACCOONS FOUND IN CONVENT CHIMNEY

Sean Walsh of Wollaston cuddles baby raccoons rescued by the League recently. An exterminator called to a convent in Newton after the nuns heard strange noises in the chimney and found the mother raccoon in the chimney and turned her loose. What he failed to discover was five newborns also hidden in the chimney. When they continued to hear noises, the nuns called in League inspectors who discovered the infants. Since the mother raccoon had been seen at night coming back to the base of the chimney, League agents tried on three successive nights to reunite the family, but with no success. The young raccoons are now being cared for at Boston headquarters and the Salem shelter, for later release in a park habitat.



We need loving homes.

Healthy, friendly pups, kittens and older pets need loving parents who care. Visit our adoption center located at the corner of Arlington and Tremont Streets in Boston.

CAPE COD: 255-1030

SALEM: 744-9170



Animal Rescue League of Boston

617-426-9170



"SHOW YOUR SUPPORT"

if you're fond of animals...

The League continues to rely on the generosity of its friends to meet the ever-expanding needs of our animal population. The cruel realism of inflation makes the League's task in providing needed services more difficult than ever, but with continued support, the challenge can and will be met.

In making a bequest to the League in your Will, please remember that the corporate title of our society is "Animal Rescue League of Boston", that it was incorporated in 1899, and has no connection with any other similar society.

Form of Bequest:

I give to the Animal Rescue League of Boston the sum of _____ dollars.
The League's address is : 10 Chandler Street,
Boston, Massachusetts 02116.



Membership in the A.R.L. makes a nice gift for someone special

Please send a gift membership in the Animal Rescue League of Boston for the class of membership checked below. (dues are enclosed) :

- ☐ Benefactor, \$1,000.00
- ☐ Patron, \$500.00 annually
- ☐ Contributing, \$100.00 annually
- ☐ Supporting, \$50.00 annually
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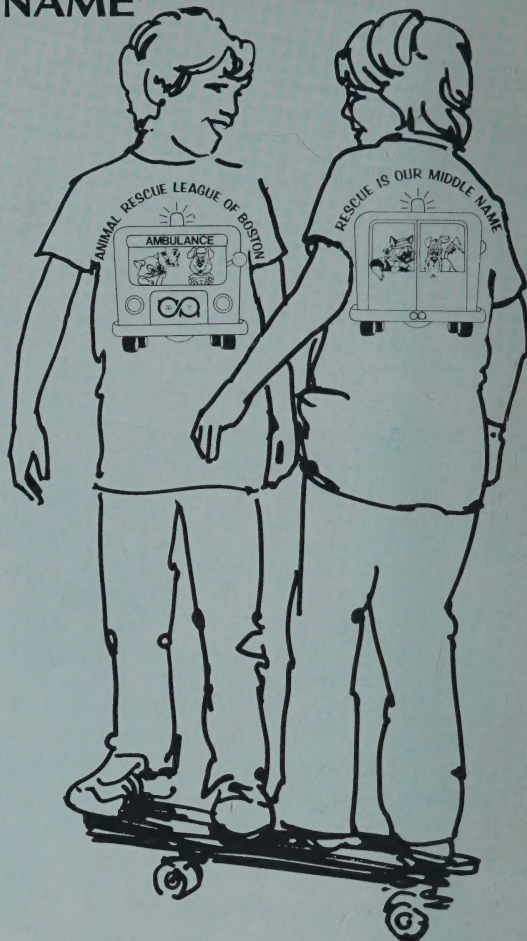
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